



Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Jim Nussle, *Chairman*

309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 • (202) 226-7270
Rich Meade, *Chief of Staff* • www.budget.house.gov

BUDGET WEEK

Volume 3, Number 5

Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

4 March 2003

Week of 3 March 2003

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) ***Congratulating Lutheran Schools, Students, Parents, Teachers, Administrators, and Congregations Across the Nation for Their Ongoing Contributions to Education, and for Other purposes*** (H.Res.106).



This resolution has no budget implications.

2) ***Honoring Visiting Nurses Association*** (H.Con.Res. 54).



This resolution has no budget implications.

3) ***Honoring the Legacy of Fred Rogers and His Dedication to Creating a More Compassionate, Kind, and Loving World for Children and Adults*** (H.Res. 111).



This resolution has no budget implications.

4) ***Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 2003.***

As of the time of the preparation of this *Budget Week*, neither the legislative text nor a cost estimate was available. Typically, Trade and Technical Corrections bills either increase or reduce revenue by a nominal amount. The bill is not expected to violate the Congressional Budget Act.

5) ***Social Security Protection Act of 2003*** (H.R 743).

This bill strengthens the supervision of people who handle benefit checks belonging to others, such as children. It also bars Social Security benefits to fugitives, and changes the Social Security Administration's procedures for paying attorneys who represent successful claimants. In all, the Act contains more than two dozen provisions, although many would have little or no budgetary effect. No cost estimate was available at the time of preparation of this *Budget Week*, but the Budget Committee expects the net effect of the bill to decrease spending in both on-budget and off-budget accounts. The bill may, however, violate section 303 of the Budget Act if those changes in spending first occur in fiscal year 2004. Section 303 prohibits any spending measure first effective in fiscal year for which there is no budget resolution. Congress is still operating under the budget resolution for fiscal year 2003, and has yet to agree to a fiscal year 2004 resolution.

6) ***Commending the Members the United States Armed Forces.***



This resolution has no budget implications.

(continued on reverse side)

PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. **Also note:** Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: *Museum and Library Services Act of 2003* (H.R. 13). 

Committee: Education and the Workforce Committee

Summary: H.R. 13 reauthorizes programs under the Museum and Library Services Act of 1996 that were authorized through 2002. Programs were authorized in 2003 by the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (Public Law 108-10). H.R. 13 would reauthorize these programs through 2009. The Act provides Federal support for museums and libraries. The Act also authorizes funds for the one Federal agency, the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Funds appropriated under the Museum and Library Services Act are for increasing access to, and cooperation among, the Nation's museums and libraries. The funds are not authorized for construction of facilities.

Cost: Authorizations of appropriations under the bill total \$245 million in 2004 and about \$1.5 billion over the 2004-2009 period. The bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

Budget Act: Enactment of this bill will not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

Bill: *Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act of 2003*. 

Committee: Ways and Means

Summary: The legislation includes a variety of provisions that will reduce revenue. Among them: 1) exclusion of the gain on the sale of a principal residence by a member of the uniformed services or the foreign service; 2) exclusion from gross income of certain death gratuity payments; 3) exclusion for amounts received under Department of Defense Homeowners Assistance Program; 4) expansion of combat zone filing rules to contingency operations; 5) modification of the membership requirement for the exemption from tax for certain veterans' organizations; 6) clarification of the treatment of certain dependent care assistance programs provided to members of the uniformed services; 7) treatment of service academy appointments as scholarships for purposes of qualified tuition programs and Coverdell Education Savings Accounts; 8) suspension of the tax-exempt status of designated terrorist organizations; 9) allowance of an above-the-line deduction of up to \$500 for overnight travel expenses of National Guard and reserve members traveling more than 100 miles from home; and 10) provision for any impact on the Social Security Trust Funds.

Cost: The bill would cause revenue to be reduced by \$80 million in fiscal year 2003 and by \$270 million over 5 years.

Budget Act: The revenue reduction would not cause the appropriate level of budget authority to be less than the level provided for by the budget resolution. Therefore, section 311, which prohibits the consideration of legislation that causes revenue to fall below this level, would not apply.

Prepared by **The Committee on the Budget**

Budget Week Page 2